

# Secretary of State News

## **MEDIA ADVISORY FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **JAEGER CERTIFIES JUNE 11 ELECTION BALLOT**

**Bismarck, ND** - Secretary of State Al Jaeger certified the ballot yesterday for the June 11 statewide election, marking the beginning of an intense and detailed process of preparing election ballots by the state's county auditors.

"It is an exciting and busy time for our office and the state's county auditors," said Jaeger. "While it is certainly encouraging to see so much interest in running for public office, it's also a hectic time with great pressures as well."

North Dakota law requires Jaeger as Secretary of State to certify the names appearing on the ballot to the county auditors by the fifty-fifth day before the election, which is today. The certification is primarily a listing of the names of candidates who filed for congressional, state executive, judicial, and legislative offices by the candidate-filing deadline that passed on Friday, April 12.

According to Jaeger, now that the names of the candidates have been certified to the county auditors, ballots must be designed, proofed, finalized, and printed within a short, fifteen-day window of time so absentee ballots can be made available to the public by the fortieth day before the election. "That date is quickly approaching on May 2," says Jaeger.

Jaeger's certification shows that a total of 174 candidates filed for office by Friday's deadline, not including the hundreds of candidates that filed for county, city, park district, and school district offices as well. When certifying the ballot, the Secretary of State does not provide the names of local candidates and, therefore, does not collect the data.

Despite not being involved in the certification of county, city, and school district candidates, Jaeger stresses the importance of the June election because of its local impact. "The June election is not just a primary election for the political parties," Jaeger emphasizes. "June 11 is also the general election for hundreds of North Dakota's cities and schools. For most North Dakotans, the June election is the only chance voters have to choose city and school officials and decide important local issues."

Jaeger's certification also includes the official ballot language for the two measures appearing on the June 11 ballot. Voters will decide on a constitutional measure concerning the election of county officials and a referred measure having to do with financial privacy laws. "Developing the ballot language for the measures is critical," says Jaeger. "It requires balancing the need to explain complex questions at a level that is understandable to everyone. I am confident that our office has accomplished this in the case of both measures appearing on the June ballot."

Of the 174 candidates being certified today, 148 are legislative candidates that filed directly with the state's county auditors. These legislative candidates are vying for

twenty-six open seats in the North Dakota Senate and forty-nine open seats in the North Dakota House of Representatives. A majority of the open seats in both chambers are from odd-numbered districts that are naturally up for election in 2002. Three of the open seats are in even numbered districts where vacancies and redistricting have forced an election to take place.

Few of the legislative districts have primary contests, with the exception of Legislative Districts 22 and 43 where candidates are competing for Republican Senate nominations and Legislative District 2 where three Republicans will face off for the nomination for two House seats. There is also a primary contest between three candidates seeking the nomination for Judgeship Number 1 in the East Central Judicial District.

Complete listings of the candidates certified for the June 11 ballot along with the official ballot language for the constitutional and referred measures appearing on the ballot are available on the Secretary of State's web site at [www.state.nd.us/sec](http://www.state.nd.us/sec).

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